

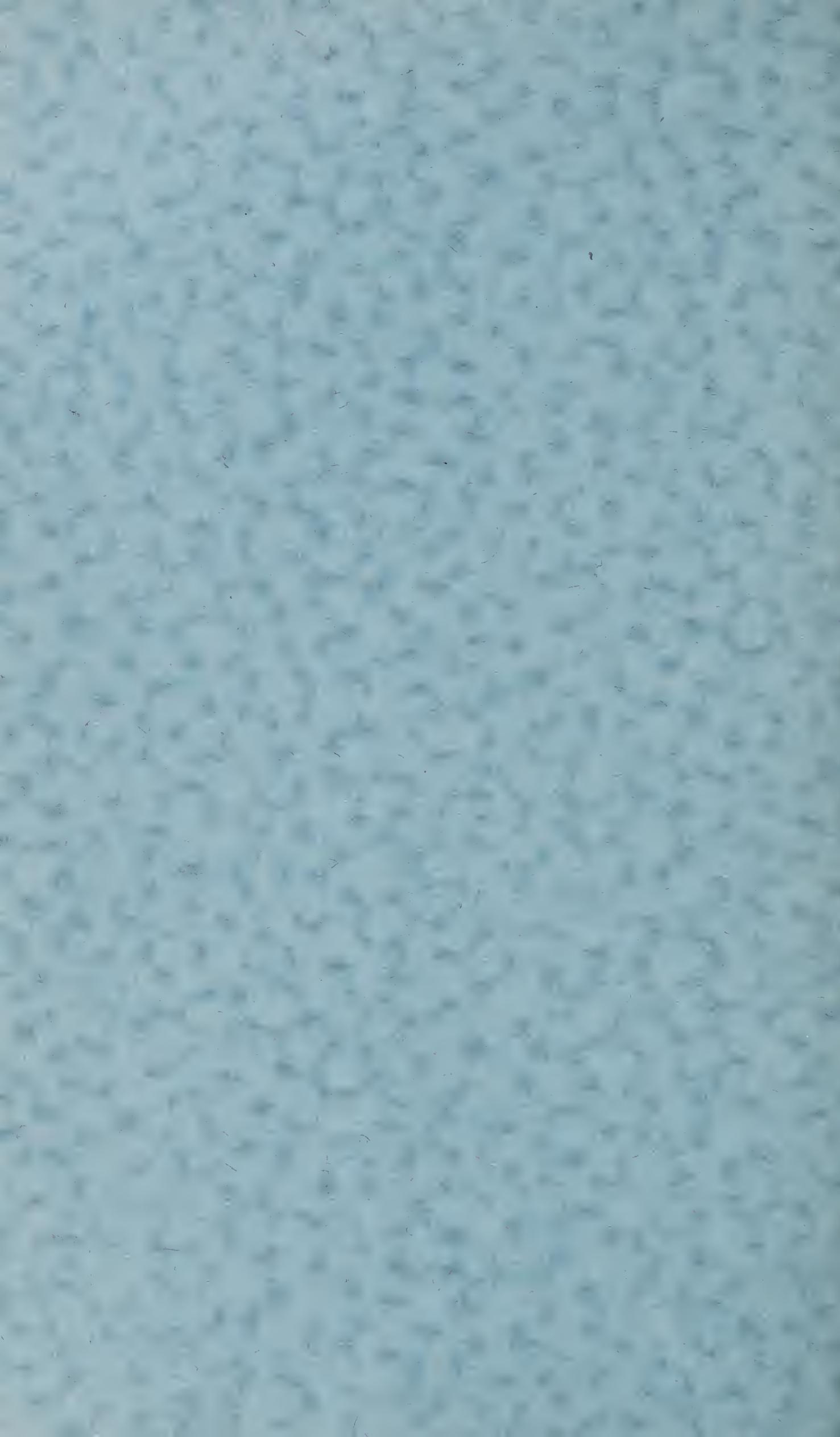
**LIMEHURST  
Rural District Council.**

**MEDICAL  
OFFICER'S  
REPORT, 1937.**

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE:

Harry Williams, The Mitre Press, St. Michael's Square.

— 11704 —



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**Rural District  
of  
LIMEHURST**

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**REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the  
Year 1937.**

# Limehurst Rural District Council

## 1937-38.

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### Members of the Council :

		Parish
Councillor J.	COOPER, J.P., Chairman .....	Woodhouses
„	R. EARNSHAW, J.P., Vice-Chairman...	Waterloo
„	F. BOSWORTH, J.P.,.....	Alt
„	H. HOBSON, .....	Bardsley
„	S. HOWARD, .....	Waterloo
„	J. THACKER .....	Littlemoss

### Officials :

A. BROWN, .....	Clerk to the Council.
G. F. BOWMAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., J.P., ...	Medical Officer of Health.
R. THOMPSON, M.INST. M. & C.Y.E., M.R.S.I.,	Surveyor
W. DAWSON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,.....	Sanitary Inspector.
A. HOWSON, A.R.V.A., .....	Rating Officer.
H. E. TURNER, F.S.I., .....	Valuation Officer (part time)

### Representatives of the Council on various Bodies :—

#### The Joint Smallpox Hospital Board :

Councillor R. EARNSHAW, J.P.

#### The Ashton & District Infirmary Board :

Councillor J. COOPER, J.P.

#### The Oldham & District Regional Planning Committee :—

Councillor R. EARNSHAW, J.P.

Councillor H. HOBSON.

#### The Public Assistance Committee :

Councillor J. COOPER, J.P.,

Councillor S. HOWARD.

#### The Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge Assessment Committee :

Councillor J. COOPER, J.P.

#### The Central Lancs. (Local Authorities) Joint Superannuation Committee :

Councillor R. EARNSHAW, J.P.

#### The Manchester & District Regional Smoke Abatement Advisory Committee :

Councillor R. EARNSHAW, J.P.

# ANNUAL REPORT

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COUNCIL OFFICES,  
200, OLDHAM ROAD,  
WATERLOO,  
NR. ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

May, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
**Limehurst Rural District Council**

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GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my Thirty-first Annual Report as to the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1937.

## **A—Natural and Social Conditions of the District.**

The Rural District lies between the County Borough of Oldham, the Lees Urban District, and the Saddleworth Urban District (Yorks.) on the north, the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne on the south, the Boroughs of Ashton and Mossley on the east, and the Failsworth Urban District and the Droylsden Urban District on the west.

With the exception of the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo, which are urban and industrial in character, the District is rural, and varies in height above Ordnance Datum from 215.00 to 1000 feet. Geologically the District lies upon the grit and coal formation interspersed with clay, moss and sand.

The principal industries are Cotton Spinning, Bleaching and Dyeing, and Allied Trades, Iron and Steel Works, one Coal Mine and a Wadding Factory, also Milk Production on a considerable scale.

## AREA, POPULATION, AND RATEABLE VALUE

PARISH	AREA IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable value £	Product 1d. Rate £
Alt .....	1,132.724	272	3,206	12
Bardsley .....	883.076	549	7,258	27
Littlemoss.....	703.802	198	3,039	12
Waterloo .....	341.139	1,237	14,728	54
Woodhouses...	627.545	234	2,236	9
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>3,688.286</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>30,467</b>	<b>114</b>

Population for 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead)..... 8151  
 Population for 1937 (Estimated for purposes of Birth Rate and Death Rate) ..... 8006

## VITAL STATISTICS.

		TOTAL	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate .....	93	37	56
	Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total .....	93	37	56
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.....				11.6
Still Births .....		5	3	2
Rate per 1000 Total Births .....				51
Deaths .....		102	53	49
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population				12.7
Deaths from Puerperal causes	Deaths		Death rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births	
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil			—
Other Puerperal causes	One			—
Total .....	One		10.20	
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—				
All Infants per 1000 live births .....				64
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births				64
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....				20
” ” Measles (all ages) .....				Nil
” ” Whooping Cough (all ages).....				Nil
” ” Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....				1

Population, 8,006	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate			Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death Rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births		
Mean of 5 years 1932-36	11.8	12.2	0.51	1.79	1.88	1.83		60
Year 1936	...	13.2	12.8	0.37	1.49	9.43	9.17	37
,, 1937		11.6	12.7	0.24	2.49	10.75	10.20	64
Increase or decrease in 1937 on 5 years' average, 1932-36	-0.2	+0.5	-0.27	+0.70	+8.87	+8.37		+ 4
Previous Year	...	-1.6	-0.1	-0.13	+1.00	+1.32	+1.03	+27

Tuberculosis of the respiratory system caused 2 deaths, one female and one male, which gives a death rate of 0.24 per 1,000, being a decrease of 0.13 below 1936.

Diseases of the Zymotic or infectious class caused 18 deaths, an epidemic rate of 2.25 per 1000, last year's rate being 2.12 per 1000.

The following table shows the number of deaths from Zymotic diseases during the year.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	0
Smallpox .....	0
Diphtheria .....	1
Scarlet Fever .....	0
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	0
Pneumonia, all forms .....	6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	2
Whooping Cough .....	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	1
Measles .....	0
Puerperal Sepsis .....	0
Other Puerperal diseases.....	1
Influenza .....	5

## **TOTAL DEATHS IN THE LIMEHURST R.D. 1937.**

Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)	M.	F.
Smallpox .....	0	...
Poliomyelitis .....	0	...
Polioencephalitis .....	0	...
Deaths of Infants under one year.....Total	2	...
Legitimate .....	2	...
Illegitimate .....	0	...
Live Births .....	Total	37
Legitimate .....	37	...
Illegitimate .....	0	...
Still Births .....	Total	3
Legitimate .....	3	...
Illegitimate .....	0	...

### TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10			1	1				1
10—15					1			
15—20			1					
20—25			1			1		
25—35	1	2	2				1	
35—45								
45—55	1	1						
55—65							1	
65 and over								
	2	5	3	2	1	1	2	0
	7		5		2		2	

Of the four tuberculosis deaths in 1937 three were notified before death and one after.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1937.**  
**Notified cases only included.**

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all Ages.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										YEARS									
		under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over								
Smallpox	...	...	21	...	...	1	3	10	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	15	13	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	37	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	9	4	3	...	...	...	...
Acute Influenza		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis-Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Totals</b>	...	71	2	...	...	4	3	27	19	8	2	1	3	2	10	3	40	3	40	3	3

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Smallpox .....	0
Scarlet Fever .....	21
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup .....	37
Enteric Fever .....	1
Acute Primary Pneu. } .....	7
Acute Influ. Pneu. } .....	7
Puerperal Fever .....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	0
Ophthal. Neon .....	2
Erysipelas .....	2
Pulm. Tuberculosis .....	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	5
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	0
Dysentery .....	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0
 Total .....	 83
	—

REPORT ON OUTBREAK OF DIPHTHERIA  
AT BARDSLEY.

There were no cases of diphtheria in Bardsley in 1937 until 12th April when one case occurred. There were no further cases until 20th September when two cases were notified. This was the beginning of the outbreak, the source of which was traced to Bardsley Church of England School, which is the only school in the Parish.

Each of the infected houses was visited, full enquiries made as to commencement of illness, possible sources of infection, age, sex, occupation, any previous case in house and if a known contact of another case. The occupations of parents and other members of family were the subject of enquiry. Inspection of the premises followed with a view to ascertaining whether home isolation was possible or not. Where such accommodation was unsatisfactory removal to hospital was advised and carried out. Disinfection was afterwards carried out as early as possible after removal to hospital. All contacts of school age in the house were excluded from school for 14 days and the throat swabbed.

I worked in close collaboration with the School's Medical Officer of Health throughout this outbreak.

On November 2nd, 1937, the School's Medical Officer visited the School and examined the children, and two of the swabs taken proved to be positive. On the 6th November two more cases were reported and on the 7th November two further cases were notified. At this stage I determined to advise the Limehurst Rural District Council to close the School for a period of 14 days, in the hope of arresting the spread of the disease. The School was closed from November 8th to November 21st.

On November 8th the School was visited by myself and the Sanitary Inspector with a view to arranging disinfection and cleansing. The sanitary accommodation was inspected, the source and suitability of water supply ascertained (Town's water) and enquiries into the milk supply were made. Disinfection was commenced on 9th November and following this a very thorough cleansing of the school was carried out.

The next case reported was on November 11th, being a boy fully employed at an ironworks and on the 17th November a further case was notified, this girl being of school age. It will be seen from the above that only two cases had occurred in Bardsley after the closing of the School, that is in 12 days, and the incubation period limit for diphtheria is 10 days.

The School re-opened on Monday, 22nd November and a number of contacts had been excluded from School until a later date. Between the 22nd and 26th November the School's Medical Officer swabbed every child coming to School and four gave positive results, consequently the School was again closed from November 26th, 1937, to January 10th, 1938, by the School's Medical Officer of Health.

There were no further cases of diphtheria in Bardsley from November 25th to the end of the year. In all there were 25 cases, 22 were treated in hospital and 3 were isolated at home. Hospital accommodation was provided at Oldham, Salford, Manchester and Rochdale Infectious Diseases Hospitals. Happily none of the cases in this outbreak proved fatal.

A report under Article 17 (7) of the Sanitary Officer's (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, was made on this matter on the 20th November, 1937.

The spread of the infection was no doubt due to the presence of a few cases of very mild nasal diphtheria.

### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Advantage is taken by residents in the district of facilities afforded them by the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary and Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne. For Infectious diseases there are the Isolation Hospitals at Ashton-under-Lyne and Oldham, and Monsall, Manchester, when beds are available, and the Hartshead Joint Hospital for Smallpox.

The Council make an annual payment of £21 to the District Infirmary and also pay an annual subscription of £20 as a retaining fee for the Motor Ambulance of the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation, and the latter is thereby available for service in the Rural District.

The Council also make a contribution of £3 3s. 0d. per annum to the Manchester Royal Infirmary into which Institution residents of the Limehurst District are admitted from time to time.

Also the Council make an annual contribution to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital of two guineas.

A number of recommendation forms, for admission and for treatment of in and out patients, are issued to the Council both by the Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary Board and the Manchester Royal Infirmary Board, to be used at discretion.

Disinfection of clothing and bedding is carried out when advisable at the Ashton-under-Lyne steam disinfecter by arrangement with the Corporation.

Antitoxin is supplied free for Diphtheria cases, and this is stored at the County Police Station, Waterloo, where it is available day and night on production of a written application from the doctor attending the case.

On the 25th November the Council passed the following resolution with regard to Diphtheria :—

“That this Council’s Medical Officer of Health is hereby authorized to immunise any of the inhabitants of this area when requested to do so, free of cost, and to supply upon request, the immunising agent free of cost in cases where it is desired to have immunisation carried out by their own Medical Practitioner.”

Immunising prophylactic is now supplied to doctors from the Public Health Department.

Bacteriological examinations of Swabs are made by arrangement with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory, the Ashton District Infirmary, and the Oldham Royal Infirmary.

No return cases of Scarlet Fever reported.

Upon receipt of notification of an outbreak of Infectious Disease the premises are visited and inspected to ascertain if any sanitary defects exist, and, if so, steps are taken to have the same remedied. Isolation at home as far as practicable is insisted upon in those cases where the patient is not moved into isolation hospital, and disinfectant in liquid and powder form is supplied free during the period of illness. Any ratepayers, upon giving satisfactory reasons, are likewise supplied with disinfectant upon application at the Council Offices.

Library books are either destroyed or disinfected at the house, or the Council Offices.

## B—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

No special arrangements are in force for the sampling of Food, samples being taken by the Inspectors of the Lancashire County Council.

Milk produced in the Limehurst area is subject to sampling by the County Police and Public Health Departments and by Inspectors in the neighbouring boroughs where it is largely retailed, and no similar action has therefore been taken by the District Council direct. A considerable number of milk samples are taken on behalf of the County Council by this Council’s Sanitary Inspector. Details are given under the heading “Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.”

### WATER SUPPLY.

The large portion of the district is supplied from the Reservoirs of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Board, and part of the parish of Alt from the Oldham Corporation Reservoirs, the quality of the water in both cases being excellent. Analysis is made at the Public Health Laboratories, Manchester, as and when necessary, for both chemical and bacteriological examination.

By request of the Engineer of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Water Board (Mr. M. T. B. Whitson, B.Sc., A.M.Inst., C.E.) information concerning any case of typhoid occurring in this district is supplied to him.

The higher or upland portion of the parish of Alt is dependent upon springs and wells, and contamination is very remote.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Medlock, a tributary of the river Irwell, flows through the District from north-east to south-west and receives several streams *en route* which are fed by a number of surface springs and outcrops of subsoil water. All the streams are subject to rapid rise of level and volume during rainstorms. The effluent drain from the Bardsley sewage works discharges into the river direct and the corresponding drains at the Waterloo and Newmarket works discharge into a stream which joins the Medlock at Daisy Nook. Canals extend from Bardsley Vale to the Failsworth boundary at Woodhouses, with a branch off at Bardsley Locks leading to Droylsden and beyond. These canals are now in the ownership of the L. & N.E. Railway Company, and are in disuse except for carrying railway company materials.

### SEWERAGE.

The built-up areas in the parishes of Waterloo and Bardsley are sewered, and the branch sewers extend to within reasonable distance from all but a few out-lying houses, there being 3 premises in Waterloo and 24 in Bardsley with closets which are too far away or at too low a level for the provision of water closets.

These sewerage systems are of the combined type, but there are also a number of pipes and culverts which convey surface water only from the streets, and from low-lying land, direct into natural brook courses.

Parts of 16 premises in Waterloo, and 9 whole premises in Littlemoss, are drained into the sewerage system of the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation, the cost of the treatment of the sewage being borne by the parishes concerned. The 24 W.C.'s at the Maple Mill No. 2 at Bardsley are drained to the system of the Oldham Corporation and one house situated partly in the Oldham County Borough area is drained to the Bardsley sewers, payment for sewage treatment being made respectively by the two Authorities on an agreed basis.

Part of the parish of Littlemoss has a main drain discharging into a culverted brook-course on the boundary between that parish and the Droylsden U.D.C., and the drains from a number of houses and from the railway station, including a few W.C.'s, are connected into it, also the effluent drain from the unit treating the sewage from 48 new houses on Lumb Lane.

In the parish of Alt also there is a short length of main drain at the north end of Lees New Road, which was laid by the Estate Trustees who constructed the road, and this discharges into a ditch on land nearby.

In the parish of Woodhouses there are three lengths of main drain, one discharging into septic tanks which are periodically cleansed by the Council men, and the others discharging into a small brook far removed from the houses.

The question of the proper sewerage of the parishes of Littlemoss and Woodhouses, with the necessary disposal works for the treatment of the sewage, cannot be put off indefinitely, and the same may be said of part of the parish of Alt. In many respects your District is unique as compared with rural districts in general and no part of the area administered by the Rural District Council is more than a couple of miles or so from a fairly large town.

With the passing of the Local Government Act, 1929, some of the old parochial atmosphere of rural districts has been swept away, and your Council may now resolve, under Section 56 (1) of the Act to assist any approved scheme of sewerage (and water supply) in any one parish, or combination of parishes, out of the General District Rate. Where any such resolve is made it is reasonable to assume that, if application is made for the same, the County Council will also contribute under Section 57 (1) of the Act, to the extent necessary to prevent the proposed expenditure from becoming a burden to the ratepayers.

The Rural Councils, through the changes wrought by the same Act, are now relieved of direct responsibility for the maintenance of unclassified roads in their areas and this should be an incentive to the Councils to launch out on schemes for the improved sanitary condition of their districts. It is felt that such development as is required in various parishes should be instituted as a right and as a duty by the District Council itself. Modern conditions demand such progress and it is better not to wait for pressure to be applied by higher authority.

Contributions may be sought from the County Council in respect of expenditure already incurred, and which at present falls to be met out of the Special Expenses rate of a parish, and this point may be borne in mind in considering how or to what extent it might otherwise appear to be unfair for parishes which have for years been meeting calls for special expenses on account of work carried out years ago to contribute also through the General Rate to the cost of similar works now proposed for areas with less rateable value.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council have three disposal works. Two units on one site serve the parish of Waterloo and the other works is in the parish of Bardsley, alongside the river Medlock.

These works comprise straining grids, detritus tanks, feed channels, continuous flow sedimentation tanks, auxiliary storm-water tanks, dosing tanks, filter beds with automatic rotary distributors and humus tanks. At the Waterloo works sludge from the detritus tanks is mixed with shoddy and

disposed of as manure, and sludge from the sedimentation tanks is drained to special sludge tanks where, after settling, the liquid is syphoned off and distributed over auxiliary filter beds of graded furnace clinker before discharge into a water course, and the sludge is pumped out and conveyed by pipes and troughs to sludge-drying lagoons. The dried sludge is ultimately used on the land by the farmers, etc. and where necessary it is now mixed with shoddy before removal.

Samples of effluent have been taken by the Mersey and Irwell Committee inspectors at intervals during the year.

Following the conversions of the three rectangular filter beds at the Bardsley Works into two circular beds, 32 feet in diameter and 6 feet in depth, with rotary distributors, and the construction at both the Bardsley and Waterloo Works of dosing tanks, feed channels, etc. last year, the effluents obtained at these Works have been more satisfactory than in previous years.

Blockages have been cleared from sewers in Ducie Street, Bardsley, and Cranbourne Road, Waterloo, and along with the latter job two main drain connections were improved.

New sewers were constructed by the County Borough of Oldham in August during the Corporation's Cemetery extension in the parish of Woodhouses.

The sewage tank and filter bed for 24 houses at Medlock Road, Woodhouses, were emptied, cleaned out and the filter rebuilt in February. The sewage unit for two houses in Taunton Platting, Waterloo, was cleaned out and the filter rebuilt, similarly the sewage unit serving the Lumb Mill and Cryer Street, Littlemoss, was cleansed and the filter rebuilt in August.

New sewage units were constructed to serve Hasting's Piggeries, Medlock Road, Woodhouses, three reconstructed houses in Vale Lane, Woodhouses, and a milk producing farm at Parkbridge, Alt.

Plans, section and manhole drawings for a sewer extension at Knott Lanes, Bardsley, and plans, section and detail drawings for six inch main drainage, manholes and sewage disposal works at Lumb Lane, Littlemoss, together with specifications, have been prepared and approved in connection with the Council's re-housing proposals for slum clearance.

During the year the approach road to the Bardsley sewage works has been tarsprayed, town's water has been laid on to the works cabin, a shelter has been erected over the sludge pump at the humus tanks, all exposed ironwork has been painted with anti-rust solution, two new float arms have been fitted on draw-off valves to the large settling tanks and extensive removals of sludge have taken place from the various lagoons.

At the Waterloo works the largest sludge lagoon has been divided into two sections by the construction of a rubble wall set in cement mortar, and one end wall has been similarly constructed in place of an earth embankment. Also a rubble stone straining chamber has been constructed in the lowest corner of the lagoon to facilitate syphonage of surplus liquor.

Also at the Waterloo works the distributor on one of the 60 ft. diameter filter beds has been fitted with a new phospher bronze ring. No. 1 distributor on the Newmarket unit has been dismantled and repaired; No. 2 distributor has been taken down and fitted with a new galvanized centre drum and the feed pipes and spray jets on three auxiliary rectangular filter beds repaired and re-spaced to obtain more even distribution.

Repairs were effected to float arms and penstocks, at the Waterloo works, 46 ft. of new 4 inch drain and 81 ft. of 3 inch iron drain were laid to convey syphoned liquor from the sludge lagoons to dosing tanks for percolating (auxiliary) filters. Filter barriers in the humus tanks were emptied, cleansed and re-constructed.

All the exposed ironwork on the Waterloo sewage works area was painted with anti-rust bituminous solution. Extensive removals of sludge were made from the lagoons during the second half of the year.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE.

Under the heading "Closet Conversions, etc., " a tabulated Statement gives the totals of the various sanitary conveniences in the five parishes which remained in the District at December 31st, 1937. From this table it will be seen that the number of pail closets is 8 in the parish of Waterloo and 29 in the parish of Bardsley.

In the carrying out of conversions every opportunity is taken to get the number of conveniences increased where such is desirable, and in many cases at houses where there are now separate closets, the occupants formerly were obliged to use conveniences in common with the people at one or more neighbouring houses.

The repair, or the relaying, of existing house drainage, together with the provision of inspection chambers and ventilating shafts, which usually occurs in carrying out conversions to W.C.'s, constitute additional and very desirable improvements, but such also call for extensive supervision, inspection and testing by the Sanitary Inspector's Dept.

Old drainage systems have usually been found to be without any ventilation, and without any proper means of access for inspection and cleansing. Existing pipes too large for the work they have to deal with, and not laid to suitable gradients nor with watertight joints have frequently been found.

Particulars of the improvements effected this year are set out in the Sanitary Inspector's Report under the heading of "Closet Conversions, etc."

### HOUSE SCAVENGING.

The collection of house refuse and nightsoil is carried out by the Council's workmen in the parishes of Waterloo, Bardsley, Littlemoss, and Woodhouses. The Council motor lorries and nightsoil carts are employed for this purpose, and hired horses and carts are also engaged as required.

In the Park Bridge section of Alt parish a weekly collection from closet pails and ashbins, etc., is made by the firm of H. Lees & Sons Ltd. who own practically the whole of the property.

Garden refuse, old bedding, etc., was removed from several premises during the year at the request of the occupiers, who bore the cost of the same.

## SCHOOLS.

There are eight Elementary Schools in the district, one of modern construction, the others of early construction, and the water supplies for these are now all derived from the public mains.

Bottled milk is supplied to the children at all the schools except the small Church school at Park Bridge, Alt, a total average quantity of 497 bottles per day being consumed.

The milk at the Bardsley, Waterloo, Littlemoss and Woodhouses schools is all pasteurized, and at the Knolls Lane school untreated milk is provided.

At the C. of E. School at Waterloo the first part of a scheme of extensions has been completed during the year and the additional accommodation is now in use.

The closet accommodation at the schools in Bardsley and Waterloo is all on the water carriage system. The pail closets at the two schools in Woodhouses and at the Littlemoss school are emptied by the Council workmen and the pail closets at the Alt schools are emptied under arrangements made by the School Managers.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

No action is being taken by the Council, but the Lancashire County Council have made arrangements for examinations to be made free of charge at Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The Lancashire County Council has a Tuberculosis Dispensary in the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne, and cases from your District receive attention there.

Notification of Tuberculosis by medical men practising in the District is efficient and following the publication of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations of 1930, they were all circularized as to the requirements of these new Regulations. There have been no cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

The Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. George Fletcher, (at Ashton-under-Lyne) arranges for visits to the houses by a Health Visitor who reports upon the conditions at each of the premises where affected persons live, and upon special defects as to windows, damp walls, floors, or ceilings. Upon receipt of these reports, steps are taken to have these defects remedied. Nourishment in the form of milk, etc., is supplied in suitable cases.

Houses are disinfected after cases of Phthisis where this is deemed advisable.

### SCHOOL CLINICS.

There are no school clinics in the district. Under the County Council Scheme children must apply for treatment to Royton or Droylsden.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A welfare centre administered by the County Council at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, is held fortnightly, where mothers may take their infants and obtain advice, also special treatment for the babies where required. Fresh milk is supplied free in necessitous cases, and also proprietary foods at reduced charges.

### DISTRICT NURSES.

The District Nurses of the Ashton-under-Lyne District Association visit the District.

### MIDWIVES ACT 1936.

#### PROVISION OF A DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE IN THE DISTRICT.

<i>Township</i>	<i>County Council Midwife to serve.</i>
ALT .....	At present this township is served by a midwife employed by the Yorkshire West Riding County Council. Mrs. B. Horwood at present residing in Ashton-under-Lyne will shortly take up residence in Lees, and will be available for attendance on cases occurring in Alt.

<i>Township</i>	<i>County Council Midwife to serve.</i>
BARDSLEY.....	Mrs. B. J. Egerton, 57 Ladbrooke Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.
	Mrs. A. E. Ibbotson, 41 Alexandra Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.
WATERLOO....	Mrs. L. Barrett, 280 Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.
LITTLEMOSS....	Mrs. E. Smith, 45 Scott Road, Greenside Estate, Droylsden.
	Mrs. A. Gould, 102 Scott Road, Manchester Road, Droylsden.
WOODHOUSES...	Mrs. E. Brownlow, 60 Ashton Rd. East, Failsworth.

There are no County Council midwives resident in the District.

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#### POWERS OBTAINED UNDER VARIOUS ACTS.

Sections 112, 113, 114 and 115 of the Public Health Act, 1875, by Orders dated 21st September, 1877, and 9th November, 1882.

Section 45 of the P.H.A., 1875, as from 19th July, 1907.

NOTE.—This section applied later to all Rural Districts by virtue of the R.D.C. (Urban Powers) Order of 1931.

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Sections 15—18, 20—25, and 27—33 of Part II.,  
Sections 34—38, 43—46 and 48—51 of Part III.,  
Sections 52—60, 62—66 and Section 68 of Part IV.,

and the whole of Part V of the P.H.A. (Amendment Act), 1907, in force in the whole of the District as from 20th March, 1911, subject to certain reservations as to Sections 27 and 30 in Part II, Sections 35, 37, and 38 in Part III, Section 59 in Part IV, and Section 75 in Part V.

Sections 39—42 of Part III in force in the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo, and Sections 93—95 in the Parishes of Bardsley and Woodhouses, as from 20th March, 1911.

Part III of the P.H.A. (Amendment Act), 1890, adopted by the R.D.C., 6th April, 1911, and operative from 1st June, 1911.

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Section 3 of the P.H. (Buildings in Streets) Act, 1888, as from 13th September, 1911.

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Sections 154, 155, and 157 of the P.H.A., 1875, as from 13th September, 1911.

NOTE.—The functions of Section 154 were transferred to County Councils by the Local Government Act of 1929.

Section 157 now applied to all Rural Districts by virtue of the Rural District Councils (Urban Powers) Order of 1931.

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Section 160 of the P.H.A. 1875, sub-sections (1) and (3) incorporating the corresponding provisions of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, and so much as incorporates or relates to the incorporation of the provisions of Sections 74 and 80 of that Act, as from 13th September, 1911.

Orders under Section 51 of the Public Health Act (Amendment Act), 1907, (extending section 112 of the P.H.A., 1875) as from 18th September, 1913.

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Section 39 of the P.H.A., 1875, and Section 20 of the P.H.A. (Amendment Act), 1890, for the erection of public conveniences in the Parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo, as from 20th November, 1923.

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An order has been made putting into operation Part IV of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890 (relating to music and dancing) as from 25th October, 1937.

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Many of the above mentioned powers were merged in the Public Health Act, 1936, which came into force on the 1st October, 1937.

## BYE-LAWS IN FORCE.

New Streets and Buildings, as from 19th August, 1926.

Drainage of Existing Buildings, as from 21st January, 1927.

Slaughterhouses, as from 18th June, 1926.

Advertisements (Lancs C.C.) in parish of Littlemoss.

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## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

After a number of years associated with the Manchester and District Regional Planning Advisory Committee, the R.D.C. passed the Town-Planning resolution on the 9th November, 1933, and joined the Oldham and District Statutory Regional Planning Committee as a constituent authority.

The Council have two representatives with voting power on the Committee and meetings are held at the Town Hall, Oldham, once in every two months, the Clerk and the Surveyor of the Council also being entitled to attend but without power to vote.

During 1935 the Council exercised their powers to zone two residential areas, and also provisionally approved road proposals for that part of the Rural District extending from Taunton Road and Newmarket Road, Waterloo, in a westerly direction to the boundary of the Droylsden U.D.

Plans were approved in the month of September for proposed new road, 60 ft. in width, from the Droylsden U.D. boundary through the Parish of Littlemoss to join up with Newmarket Road, and providing for the future widening of Newmarket Road and Wilshaw Lane to the Ashton-under-Lyne Borough boundary at Wilshaw Railway Bridge.

Also for another proposed road, 60 ft. in width, from the Oldham County Borough boundary at Hollinwood to the Ashton Borough boundary, leading to Richmond Street, comprising two entirely new end sections and one new centre section and incorporating between these sections two lengths of existing road at Cutler Hill and Daisy Nook. The total width through Daisy Nook to be reduced to 30 ft. carriage-way, and a detached footpath 15 ft. in width, with a foot-bridge across the River Medlock alongside the existing reinforced concrete bridge.

Since the Interim Development Order became operative, all proposals for development require to be considered in the light of the new powers and duties devolving on the Council, and until such time as the District has been completely planned and all necessary maps have been prepared such proposals as are submitted by private developers must inevitably add to the work and responsibility of your officials. The defining of improvement lines on highways in order to fix building set-back is a common instance, often requiring special survey work, also correspondence with the Regional Planning Office, and with the County Council as the Highway Authority in the Rural District.

## BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

### Plans submitted for Approval.

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The following plans were submitted to the Council during the twelve months for approval :—

Layout plans for new houses .....	1
New houses (for 3 dwellings) .....	2
New houses and garages combined .....	2
Reconditioned houses—(for 3 houses) .....	1
Alterations to Offices .....	1
Back door Shelters.....	1
Out-kitchens and Sculleries .....	8
Stables.....	1
Alterations to Golf House .....	1
Pig-sheds .....	1
,,      (extensions) .....	1
Garages .....	19
Greenhouses (one an extension) .....	3
Pithead Baths .....	1
Electric cables .....	2
Water mains .....	1
G.P.O. pillar box .....	1
Gas mains .....	1
Miscellaneous .....	5
	—
	53
	—

The plans of two of the out-kitchens were not approved.

R.D.C. plans were also submitted and approved for the following :—

Road Improvements .....	4
House Plans (2 amended blocks) .....	2
Sewer Extension .....	3
Sewage Disposal Works .....	2
Riverside Wall .....	1

### Regional Planning Committee Plans.

Proposed New Road, Daisy Nook .....	1
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Particulars of the following 75 buildings were also submitted without plans :—

Greenhouse extensions ...	5	Greenhouses .....	15
Garages .....	1	Cycle sheds.....	6
Hencotes .....	13	Potting sheds.....	1
Porches .....	5	Storesheds .....	7
Coalhouses .....	2	Miscellaneous.....	6
Toolsheds & Garden sheds	14		

The majority of these 75 buildings are wooden structures and small in size.

The garage proposal (an extension) was not approved.

One garage erected without notice was not approved and was subsequently taken down.

A large storeshed was erected without notice also, in the parish of Alt. At the end of the year the owner of this building had not been traced.

The erection of various types of small buildings continues to take place before any notices or plans have been sent in to the Council and there have been several such cases during the year.

## Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### 1.—Notices Served—Nuisance and Sanitary Defects.

No. of Informal Notices served during 1937 (concerning 126 houses) .....	111
No. of same complied with during 1937 (concerning 111 houses) .....	100

NOTE.—A number of Notices in the form of letters were delivered in addition to the above.

No. of Statutory Notices served (for 20 houses) .....	13
,,     ,,     ,,     complied with .....	13
,,     Legal Proceedings authorised .....	Nil
,,     ,,     ,,     taken .....	Nil

Twelve of the Statutory Notices were served for nuisances, and one for insufficient closet accommodation.

### 2.—Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Total number of notifiable diseases recorded during the year .....	83
Tabulated statements of same are given on pages 7, 8, and 9.	
Number of premises disinfected (68 houses, 3 Schools) .....	71
,,     ,,     disinfested (for vermin) .....	1

29 Diphtheria cases and 6 Scarlet Fever cases were accommodated at the following Infectious Diseases Hospitals: Oldham, 11; Manchester, 4; Hyde, 3; Ashton-under-Lyne, 3; Salford, 6 and Rochdale, 8. Varying amounts were paid by parents towards cost of maintenance and treatment in hospital.

The stock of diphtheria anti-toxin is checked periodically and renewed as required, care being taken not to allow it to get out-of-date.

The liquid disinfectants issued at the Council Offices are in diluted strength and present a milky-white appearance. Care is taken, therefore, to attach a bright red poison label to each bottle, as the types of bottles handed in are very varied and occasionally stoppered milk bottles are brought.

### 3.—Refuse Collection and Disposal.

In addition to the report under the heading "House Scavenging," note may be made of the decision of the Council in January, 1927, to remove the ashes and refuse from the Schools, Sunday Schools, Chapels, etc., free of charge as and when required, and trade refuse from shops and business premises only at the written request of the proprietors, and which requests embodied undertakings to pay costs incurred. In the cases of business people preferring to remove their own refuse it was further decided to grant them the free use of the Council's refuse tip for the disposal of their refuse in the particular parish in which their premises may be situate but on the understanding that all refuse of a combustible nature should be burnt thoroughly and the embers of the fire extinguished before leaving the refuse tip. Any refuse of an odorous character to be effectively buried below the surface of the refuse tip.

In April, 1934, the Council resolved to move, free of any special charge, the refuse from any business premises up to a quantity not exceeding one full bin of ordinary size per week in the four parishes rated for refuse collection and disposal, and since that came into force there has been no such refuse moved that could be charged for.

No new ashpits have been provided in the District for a number of years and galvanized portable bins are provided at all new houses. The number of existing dry ashpits is also being steadily reduced in the District a further 7 being abolished this year.

Cover sheets are used on the refuse collection vehicles. One sheet was renewed in the month of February.

Complaints were received with regard to paper and litter being blown from the Bardsley tip on to the adjoining golf-course. This matter was under consideration with a view to erecting a trap fencing during the next financial year.

Special attention was given to the removal of excreta from a house in Woodhouses where a case of para-typhoid occurred.

A new pail closet (brick) was erected at Fitton Hill, Bardsley.

A thorough survey was made of the refuse collection in July, and subsequently the system was revised and re-organized.

An extension of the culvert was carried out at the refuse tip at Waterloo, comprising new reinforced concrete tubes 3 ft. 6 inches in diameter, encased in six inches of Portland Cement Concrete to an overall length on downstream side of 74 feet, including a manhole base, and to a length of approximately 54 feet on the upstream side. The main effluent drain from Waterloo Sewage Disposal Works was coupled up at the new manhole position.

Septic tanks and cesspools have been emptied at two points in the parish of Woodhouses, and at the new housing estate at Littlemoss, where blocks of houses drain to large common tanks.

Weekly collections are made from bins in the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo, and fortnightly collections in the parishes of Littlemoss and Woodhouses.

Prompt action is taken with the owners of premises to get ashbins and closet pails renewed which are found to be defective, and your workmen dust all nightsoil pails with disinfectant powder each time they are emptied.

The special galvanized nightsoil tank purchased in 1934 has been used in the emptying of cesspools, septic tanks and closet pails—the tank being carried on one of the motor lorries. Its value has been demonstrated in removals from the sewage disposal tanks provided in connection with groups of new houses in the parishes of Littlemoss and Woodhouses, and in both time and cost it represents a decided gain over the old method of emptying such large tanks with a horse drawn tumbler cart.

The gradual elimination of privy midden and cesspit closets which has taken place over the past 14 years, together with the prompt removal of nightsoil manure by the dealers who purchase same, has undoubtedly reduced the number of rats on Council premises to a considerable extent. Refuse tip fires which occasionally break out also have a rat-repelling effect, although objectionable in other respects, and a constant campaign with traps and baits keeps your premises from being overrun.

In the parish of Woodhouses an intermediate collection from nightsoil pails was inaugurated during the summer of 1931, following representations from the Parish Council, and several additional premises have been put on the weekly round this year. The need was originally confined to relatively few dwellings but every year more and more occupiers have asked to be included. The only alternative appears to be in the provision of larger pails than those of the size specified in the Bye-laws, and this the Council has no power to enforce. To give increased service without increasing the cost is a problem not always apparent to the ratepayer.

There is now a total of 1,875 ashbins, besides 16 other portable refuse receptacles, to be handled in the four parishes rated for house scavenging, as compared with 171 bins in use in the year 1922.

Bedding was removed from several premises and destroyed during the year, the owners paying the costs.

#### 4.—Closet Conversions, Drainage, etc.

Privy Midden closets converted to fresh water closets	...	1
Privy Cesspit closets	„ „ „ „	0
Waste-water closets	„ „ „ „	2
Pail closets	„ „ „ „	4
Entirely new additional W.C.'s	.....	6
Year's total of new W.C.'s	.....	<u>13</u>

Privy Midden closets converted to pail closets	.....	1
Privy Cesspit closets	„ „ „ „	0
New additional pail closets built	.....	1
Year's total of new pail closets	.....	<u>2</u>

Number of galvanized ashbins substituted for middens	...	4
„ „ „ „	for ashpits	11
„ „ „ „	ground ashpits	0
„ „ „ „	tubs and boxes	1
„ „ „ „	being renewals	52
„ „ „ „	„ additional	5
Year's total of new ashbins	.....	<u>73</u>

Waste Water Closets abolished .....	2
Pail Closets abolished.....	4
Midden ashpits abolished .....	2
Closet cesspits abolished .....	0
Dry ashpits and ground pits abolished .....	7
New closet pails provided, including renewals and conversions .....	29
Existing closet buildings reconstructed (not including additional new buildings) .....	8
Existing closet buildings repaired .....	5
New inspection chambers built on drains .....	14
New cast-iron vent shafts fixed .....	14
Premises where drains were entirely reconstructed .....	13
Premises (other than the above) where new branch drains were laid .....	7
Premises (other than the above) where existing drains were repaired .....	2
Drain blockages cleared .....	27
W.W.C. tipplers repaired .....	2
New baths (including those in new houses) .....	7
New lavatory bowls (including those in new houses) .....	7
New sinks (including those in new houses) .....	23

For new houses, fresh water closets are installed where sewers or other satisfactory drainage for the same exist, or where the latter can be provided. The closet accommodation for 1,869 houses is on the water-carriage system.

## TABULATED RECORD OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1937.

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Middens	Closets	Cesspits	Closets	Ashpits	Tubs, Boxes, etc.
Alt	66	22	204	65	11	19	12	13	45	1
Bardsley	336	207	29	431	11	16	4	7	31	4
Littlemoss	105	10	130	170	3	4	4	5	11	1
Waterloo	1033	270	8	1050	1	2	—	—	91	7
Woodhouses	29	1	234	224	1	1	1	1	0	4
Totals	1569	510	605	1940	27	42	21	26	178	17

The number of closet conversions this year is again less than that in recent years. This is accounted for partly by the fact that the number remaining to be done has greatly diminished in those parishes where conversion is desirable.

Of the remaining midden and cesspit closets, eighteen will be dealt with in slum clearance schemes.

For a number of years now a standard of work has been set in this District which is designed to give your Council and the people you represent good workmanship and real sanitary conditions without creating any hardship on the property owners. Each job carried out by the owners, whether voluntarily or as a result of requirements of the Council, is properly supervised and examined and the relatively few occasions on which work has to be done over again by local contractors and builders in these days may be said to be the natural result of stands taken in the past to secure proper jobs being done.

## 5.—Water.

The major portion of the parish of Bardsley and parts of the parish of Alt are supplied from a main which comes direct from the Yeoman Hey filter house, whereas the parishes of Waterloo, Littlemoss and Woodhouses (with the exception of three houses in the two latter parishes) are supplied by a main direct from the open Knott Hill service reservoir. An ionisation purification plant has been installed at Knott Hill and is now in use. The supply from Knott Hill is now above suspicion.

There has been no shortage of water during the year. The district is fortunate in having supplies from the public mains available throughout the greater part of the area and only the more scattered premises in the parish of Alt, a few premises in Bardsley and two in Littlemoss, are without the town's water and have to rely on wells and springs.

The three cottages in the parish of Alt referred to in the Annual reports for 1935 and 1936 were provided with town's water early in the year.

Valley Farm, Bardsley, was provided with a supply of water from the public mains during the year. The result of a sample of the well water which was previously the only available water supply was given in the 1936 report.

Hill Farm, Bardsley, is now provided with a water supply from the public mains.

A sample taken during the year of the water supply to two houses at Holts, in Alt parish, was reported as unsatisfactory. This supply is derived from a private reservoir which is open to pollution. The owner was notified and promised to provide a supply from the Oldham Corporation mains. This had not been done at the end of the year.

Attention is now being given to the feasibility of extension of the supply at Knolls Lane, Alt to Lane Head, but the two questions of engineering practicability owing to the high levels, and of the scattered situations of the premises to be served, will require careful consideration.

Several extensions of existing mains have been made in the parish of Waterloo, during the year, to serve groups of new houses.

Approximately 97.96% of the houses and population are on town's water, 36% on supplies piped privately from springs into premises, and the remaining 1.68% are supplied by wells.

All new dwellings erected since the war, have direct supplies from the public mains.

## 6.—Slaughterhouses, Meat and Food Inspection.

No Public Slaughterhouse has been provided.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the District.

Following is a list of registered slaughterhouses :

NO.	ADDRESS	OCCUPIER	APPROX. DATE OF OPENING
1	Kiln Farm, Alt .....	Joseph Wharfe.....	1872
2	Oldham Road, Bardsley...	H. Shaw .....	1892
3	Wilshaw Lane, Waterloo	J. Woolley .....	1902
4	Store Street, Waterloo ...	Waterloo Co-op. Soc.	1915
5	Langham St., Waterloo ...	W. Potts .....	1918

## Record of Carcasses Inspected and Condemnations.

	Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	255	170	14	2,160	97
Number inspected ...	218	92	2	693	89
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses con- demned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	6	17	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .....	2.75	18.5	—	—	2.25
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses con- demned .....	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	5	19	—	—	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	2.3	21.74	—	—	11.24

372 visits have been made to slaughterhouses during the year, many visits have had to be made on Sundays. Regular inspections are made at shops in the District, and places where food is prepared.

19 special notices of slaughter and 5 special notices of disease were received, and were given prompt attention.

No meat marking scheme is in force. ,

There are no shell-fish layings in the District and very little shell-fish is sold. The layings from which shell-fish sold in the District are derived are not known.

There have been no prosecutions for unfit food during the year.

Attention has been given to the use by the local butchers of mechanically-operated humane killers in accordance with the Act which came into force on the first day of January, 1934, a number of special visits being made to slaughter-houses for this purpose. The Council's decision, by Resolution, to apply the requirement to the slaughter of sheep and lambs does not now meet with serious criticism.

A number of milk cows have been found, by milk sampling, to be tuberculous, and have been slaughtered. Particulars of these are given under the "Dairies and Cow-sheds" heading.

Arrangements were made and terms agreed upon with the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation in 1932 for the destruction of unsound meat at their refuse destructor as and when necessary, and advantage has been taken of this during the year under review.

#### 7.—Dairies, Cowshed, and Milkshops.

There are 64 dairy farms in the District in the occupation of 61 cowkeepers all of whom are on the Register. The total number of cows kept is 1,093 approx.

In addition to the 61 cowkeepers who are also dairymen with registered dairy premises, there are five resident dairymen and retail purveyors with registered premises who are not cow-keepers, but buy their milk in bulk and then retail it from churns.

Finally, there are 48 firms and persons registered as dairymen and retail purveyors who have no dairy premises in the Limehurst District. Five of these are farmers and dairymen from other districts, three are Co-operative Societies operating from adjoining districts, eight are Dairy Companies

bringing in bottled milk to sell to shopkeepers and other customers and the remainder are people with provision shops, and similar trade premises, who sell bottled milk only and exactly as received from the suppliers.

Attention has again been paid during the year to the matter of retailing milk at various types of provision shops. It appears that most of the shopkeepers only began selling milk for fear of losing other custom to the shopkeepers who had bottled milk. No particular care was taken in the method of storing or exhibiting the bottled milk therefore, to protect it from dust and flies, nor in the manner of keeping empties and, in the circumstances, such was scarcely to be expected. Following a special report on the subject in 1931 the Council resolved to require all such retailers to keep their full bottles in a suitable case with close-fitting cover and their empties in a similar but separate box, and in case of non-compliance to withdraw or refuse registration.

The protection afforded by the adoption of these precautions is especially valuable in the case of the wide-neck bottle with press-in disc, of which type many are sold, particularly from the dairies of local farmers and producers.

Fees for the sale of pasteurized milk in the District have been paid by six Dairy firms this year, and for "Tuberculin Tested" milk by two firms.

Farm dairies and utensils, as a rule are found clean and generally satisfactory, and the growing practice amongst the farmers in installing boilers, sterilizing plants, refrigerators, and bottling plants tends to promote competition and a higher standard of cleanliness.

For the most part the water supply at farms is both plentiful and satisfactory in quality.

A large quantity of milk is retailed outside the District in the adjoining boroughs and Urban districts.

*Valley Farm, Bardsley.* Water from the public main has now been laid on in lieu of the unsatisfactory supply from a well.

*New Bank Farm, Woodhouses.* Work on the construction of an entirely new shippion and dairy has been commenced during the year. This, when completed, will accommodate 28 cows and the dairy will have separate milk room, utensil sterilizing room and boiler house.

*Hill Farm, Bardsley.* Reconstruction of three shippions has been carried out, including entirely new concrete floors, new windows, increased window and ventilation area, and in one case increase of height. The walls of the shippions were rendered in cement and the walls of the dairy were repaired. Water from the public mains is now laid on at this farm.

*Tanner Fold Farm, Bardsley.* Entire remodelling of the shippion buildings has taken place. Three small shippions and one stable have been altered to form one large shippion on more modern lines. One very low shippion has been discontinued as a place for milk cows. New concrete floors laid and steel tubular stall divisions provided.

*Lower Crowhill Farm, Littlemoss.* Two of the three shippions have had floors entirely reconstructed, new wooden boskins provided and new ventilation openings fitted. It was decided not to proceed on these lines with the third shippion owing to the lack of light and ventilation and the low ceiling, but to provide in lieu thereof a new cowshed in an existing building much better suited for the purpose. This work will probably be carried out next summer.

*Woodhouse Green Farm, Woodhouses (Occ. D. I. Jones).* The shippion has been entirely reconstructed, a feeding passage, new concrete floors, new wooden boskins and new and additional windows provided. Work to improve the dairy accommodation has been commenced.

*Woodhouse Green Farm, Woodhouses (Occ. T. C. Gee).* The floors of the shippions have been reconstructed in concrete. Improvements to the dairy were recorded in the Report for 1936.

*Jaum Farm, Littlemoss.* A mechanical milking machine has been installed with connections to every shippion. A bottle washing machine has been provided with two tanks and brush spinner. Early in the year the occupier of this farm was licensed by the Lancashire County Council as a producer of "Accredited" milk. Improvements at this farm are also recorded in the Report for 1936.

*Woodpark Farm, Bardsley.* A mechanical milking machine has been installed at this farm with connections to every shippon.

*Lower Lime Farm, Woodhouses.* A new concrete floor has been laid in one shippon. Previous improvements at this farm are recorded in the Report for 1936.

*Green Farm, Woodhouses.* External repointing of the west wall of the shippon has been carried out.

*Old Hall Farm, Waterloo.* The internal walls of the dairy have been tiled half way on two sides, one side having previously been tiled. Previous improvements at this farm are noted in the Report for 1936.

*Alt Fold Farm, Parkbridge, Alt.* A new dairy compartment has been provided and also a milk room. The boiler and sterilizing equipment was already installed. One small shippon at the North end of the farm was reconstructed, new concrete floor and new windows provided. Two other shippsons were improved and brought up to modern standards. The two shippsons at the North end were entirely redrained and a septic tank and filter unit provided to deal with the sewage. All the cattle have been marked and a register kept. The milkers have been provided with overalls and caps. Near the end of the year the occupier was licensed by the Lancashire County Council as a producer of "Accredited" milk.

The owners and occupiers of four other milk farms have been approached with regard to improvements at dairies and cowsheds; work on these had not been commenced at the end of the year.

The following dairymen and cowkeepers in the Limehurst Rural District are licensed by the Lancashire County Council as producers of "Accredited" milk :—

- H. Baron, Woodpark, Bardsley.
- A. Brooks, Limehurst Farm, Waterloo.
- T. Ollerenshaw, Old Hall Farm, Waterloo.
- G. Walker, Jaum Farm, Littlemoss.
- J. Hadfield (Sen.), Alt Fold Farm, Parkbridge, Alt.

The division of dairy accommodation into three sections comprising first a boiler house, then a place for washing and sterilising plant, and finally a store for the milk, refrigerator chest and cleansed utensils, is invariably advised and generally adopted at the premises where the dairy provision is being improved or enlarged. The extension of overhead supplies of electricity to scattered farms has proved a big incentive to the installation by farmers of motors for various types of dairy machinery, as well as the electric lighting of both dairies and cowsheds.

The improvement in the cleanliness and grooming of the cows has been maintained at the premises visited this year.

At the same time it would be preferable if a series of samples were taken annually for examination for the Methylene Blue test and for B. Coli. The results of such examinations would form the best evidence on which to judge of the cleanliness of the milk produced in the District and would also be of use in any action taken to improve conditions of handling and storage where such may be found to be necessary.

In the Report for 1932, it was suggested that sampling of milk for examination for tubercle bacilli might be undertaken by your Council as a routine matter, and that a sum be provided annually in the General Expenses rate of the District to cover the cost.

Direct sampling by your own full-time officials would, in my opinion, tend to minimise the possibility of an affected animal being disposed of between the date of a casual sampling in course of delivery in adjoining Districts and the date of the receipt of the laboratory report thereon.

The following particulars relate to such work carried out in your District this year at the instance of the County Council.

A tuberculous sample was reported of milk from a farm near Lane Head, Alt. The Veterinary Officer took six samples on the 5th April from the cows at this farm but all proved negative.

At a farm near Ashton Road, Woodhouses, the Veterinary Officer made an inspection on May 28th following a report of tubercle bacilli in milk. He obtained one individual and two bulk samples but these all proved negative. From information given by the farmer it was possible to trace the offending cow and to ascertain that it had been slaughtered and dealt with by a responsible officer.

Following a notification of a tuberculous sample of milk the Veterinary Officer made an inspection and obtained two bulk samples of milk at a farm off Oldham Road, Bardsley, on August 3rd. These were both reported negative, but on careful enquiry it was proved that the diseased cow had been slaughtered and properly inspected and dealt with by a Sanitary Inspector.

The herd at a farm off Medlock Road, Woodhouses was inspected on August 9th by the Veterinary Officer following the report of a tuberculous sample of milk. One cow showing clinical signs of tuberculosis was removed from the herd and slaughtered and found to be affected with tuberculosis. Two individual and three bulk samples were taken. One of the bulk samples proved positive and on August 31st five individual samples were taken. One of these gave proof of tuberculosis and the cow was removed from the herd and slaughtered. Altogether ten samples were taken and two cows found to be diseased and slaughtered.

At another farm off Medlock Road, Woodhouses a Veterinary inspection was made following a report of tubercle in milk, and on 23rd August three individual and six bulk samples were taken. Two of the bulk samples proved to be positive and in consequence on September 16th eight individual samples were taken. The Laboratory report showed two of these to be positive and the two cows concerned were removed from the herd and slaughtered. Altogether seventeen samples were taken and two diseased cows discovered.

The Veterinary Officer made an inspection at a farm off Lumb Lane, Littlemoss on the 20th September following a Laboratory report of tubercle in milk. Two individual and three bulk samples were taken but all five gave a negative result.

Samples have been taken regularly throughout the year at Alt, Knolls Lane C. of E. School, Littlemoss C. of E. School and Waterloo Christ Church C. of E. School. In all, seven samples were taken and all were certified free from tubercle bacilli.

Samples have been taken at regular intervals during the year at the "Accredited" farms in the District. Altogether twenty-five samples were obtained and submitted for examination. All these samples were free from tubercle bacilli, but in three instances were unsatisfactory with regard to B.Coli content. Follow-up samples were taken in each case and these all proved to be satisfactory.

#### **8.—Bakehouses and Confectionery.**

There are four bakehouses in use in the District at the present time; most bread consumed is brought in from adjoining boroughs in covered motor vans. The bulk of this imported bread is delivered wrapped in special grease-proof paper and retailed at the local shops.

Most of the baking done in your District is in confectionery goods and there are eleven premises which have special sectional iron ovens erected.

At the remainder, the baking is done in ordinary ovens attached to the kitchen range, there being sixteen premises in all on which baking for sale is carried on.

#### **9.—Smoke Observation.**

There are 25 factory chimneys in the area administered by the District Council of which 14 are at the Park Bridge Ironworks. Three of the latter are not now used.

Smoke observations have been taken on 16 occasions during the year. There has been no cause for statutory action to be taken. Reports have been made during the year to the Council on the results of smoke observations, and in May the Council by resolution decided that the time limit allowance for black smoke emission should be 2 minutes in the half-hour.

It is obvious that the District suffers in regard to smoke-laden atmosphere by its geographical situation being immediately east of large industrial areas of other Authorities, the prevailing winds being from the west and south-west. The deposit in the fields on that side of the Rural District is not from chimneys in this area.

The deliberate firing of domestic chimneys in the District is, however, very prevalent, and much nuisance and annoyance is caused by this practice. The cloud of smoke has on occasion been observed to completely destroy visibility for a short distance on the main road through Waterloo, with resulting danger to people and vehicles on the road. Prosecution of offenders in a few authenticated instances would doubtless have a very salutary effect.

#### 10.—Offensive Trades.

The following trades, businesses or manufactures are scheduled in the District: Blood-drier, Tanner, Leather-dresser, Fat-melter or Fat extractor, Glue maker, Size-maker, Gutscraper, Dealer in Rags and Bones, and Bone-burner.

The only such businesses carried on in the Rural District are two Dealers in Rags and Bones. There has been no cause for any action to be taken during the year.

#### 11.—Housing.

The total number of houses in the District at the end of 1937 is 2490 mostly of the working-class type. The population of the District for 1937 is 8006.

Average number of inhabitants per house.....	3.21
Number of new dwellings brought into the Rate Books during the year .....	22

There are a few back-to-back houses in Bardsley and Woodhouses and a number of houses in Alt without back doors, though not back-to-back houses.

Repairs at existing houses during the year have been recorded in 197 instances and it is felt that a fair measure of progress is being made.

All new houses erected this year have freshwater closet accommodation, and water supplies direct from the public mains.

## SLUM CLEARANCE.

Work has continued throughout the year on the slum clearance re-housing programme under the Housing Acts. 48 houses are to be built.

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Following the visit of the Council deputation to the Ministry of Health in December, 1936, work has been carried out on plans as follows.

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Plans "D", "H" and "L" to which certain objections were raised by the Ministry have been amended to conform. The latter two required entirely new plans.

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The Littlemoss layout plan for 15 new houses has been amended to shew surface water and rain water drainage separate from the foul drainage and with independent discharge.

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The Knott Lanes layout plan has been altered in various respects, and to shew drainage to the new sewer extension.

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General housing specification was revised and amended in certain minor respects. Extensive work was carried out on the colouring of copies of plans.

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A series of cross sections were prepared for the Ney Street—Blucher Street re-development site, to fix new floor levels in relation to the two street levels. Also a new series of levels were taken to reduce to Ordnance datum the original levels for the Littlemoss main drainage and Sewage Disposal Works.

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A special plan and section was prepared of the sewage disposal unit for the Littlemoss houses to a  $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch scale, in addition to the  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch detail drawings and the 1/500th scale site and drainage plan.

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Tenders were invited in September and the schedules of those received were sent up to the Ministry of Health in October.

In response to Ministry requests, additional figures and particulars were got out relating to abnormal features. At the close of the year the Council were again invited to send a deputation to the Ministry with regard to the tenders, and the date of visit was fixed for January 4th, 1938.

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During the year seven houses were dealt with under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936. In six cases Demolition Orders were made and in one case the owner gave an undertaking that the house should not be used for human habitation. This was accepted by the Council. No new clearance areas were declared during the year.

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#### SCHEDULE OF AREAS DECLARED.

No. 1 Area.—Comprising the 10 houses Nos. 3-21, Ney Street, and the disused fruit-bottling works at Blucher Street, Waterloo.

No. 2 Area.—Comprising the four houses Nos. 30-36, Gordon Street, Waterloo, and the disused workshop adjoining No. 36.

No. 3 Area.—Comprising the 14 houses Nos. 524—532, Oldham Road, 1—9, Church Street, 3—4, Glazebrook Buildings, and 1—5, Wright Street, Bardsley.

No. 4 Area.—Comprising the five houses 760-764, Oldham Road, and Nos. 1 & 3, Park Lane, Bardsley, and the derelict house adjoining No. 3, Park Lane.

No. 5 Area.—Comprising block of three wooden bungalows near Waterhouses Canal Bridge, Littlemoss.

No. 6 Area.—Comprising the two cottages at Fitton Hill, Bardsley, occupied by Mrs. Booth and Mr. C. Gamble.

No. 7 Area—Comprising the three houses Nos. 16, 18 and 20, Keb Lane, Bardsley.

## 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Number of Inspections.....	787
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	20
Number of Inspections made for the purpose	35
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation .....	13
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	198

## 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or of their officers or voluntarily by owners.....	195
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## A—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	Nil
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners .....	Nil
(b) By the Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil

## B—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners 1937 .....	2
(b) By the Local Authority .....	Nil

## C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	6
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	0

## D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	Nil

## OVERCROWDING.

The following table shows the position with regard to overcrowding and the changes that have taken place during the year.

HOUSING ACT 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	55
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.....	58
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	394
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	32
Number of families .....	36
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	215

There have been no instances of houses again becoming overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement.

## ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

No. of houses found to be infested	(a) Council houses	None
	(b) Other houses...	One
No. of houses disinfested.....	(a) Council houses	None
	(b) Other houses...	One

Methods of disinfection employed: H.C.N. (Zyklon process) in the above case.

In addition to the above the furniture and effects of a tenant were treated in a special fumigating van (H.C.N. Zyklon process) prior to removal to a Council house.

The Council have decided to fumigate the furniture and effects of tenants with H.C.N. when removals to new Council houses take place during slum clearance operations. It is expected that this work will be done by a contractor.

The tenants from the houses to be demolished will be advised before and after removal, as to the best methods of avoiding re-infestation.

### **12.—Shops' Acts.**

During the year a full survey was made of 101 of the 124 shops in the District, with particular reference to ventilation, sanitary conveniences and means of heating.

In two shops in Waterloo means of natural ventilation were provided following representations being made.

A report on each shop was forwarded to the County Council with regard to health and comfort of shop assistants, and the employment of young persons.

### **13.—Storage of Petroleum, Petroleum Spirit, etc.**

Licences are issued annually to a number of firms for the storage of petroleum and petroleum spirit, as per the following schedule, and the premises are subject to inspection under the Regulations made by the Home Secretary and as applied by the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act of 1928 :—

FIRM	ADDRESS	BUSINESS	Authorised Quantity to be stored
Albert Beech	Oldham Road, Bardsley	Petrol-filling Station	1500 glns.
Heginbotham Bros.	Oldham Road, Bardsley	Wheelwrights & Blacksmiths	5000 glns.
Waterloo Indus- trial Co-op. Soc.	Oldham Road, Waterloo	Provision and General Dealers	500 glns.
F. Andrew & Son	Atlas Garage, Waterloo	Hauliers	500 glns.
Mc.Connel & Co. Ltd.	Lumb Mills, Littlemoss	Cotton Spinners	1000 glns.
Stuart Bros.Ltd.	Stafford Works, Waterloo	Cloth Cleaners & Oil Recovery	500 glns.
Jno. & Abel Lees, Dobb, Ltd.	Keb Lane, Bardsley	Roller Turners, Etc.	100 glns.
T. Kerfoot & Co. Ltd.	Bardsley Vale	Manufacturing Chemists	500 glns.
J. J. Threlfall	Failsworth Rd, Woodhouses	Motor Engineer	500 glns.
F. Scholes	off Oldham Rd. Bardsley	Haulage Contractor	500 glns.
G. Davenport	255 Grove St. Waterloo	Garage Proprietor	500 glns.

Two of the occupiers with 500 gallon tanks have not renewed their licenses during the past year.

#### 14.—Canal Boats, Rag Flocks, etc.

There are no canal boats plying which are used as dwellings, no common lodging houses, no swimming baths, and no rag flock premises in the Limehurst District.

W. DAWSON,

A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES  
Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ... ...	10	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ... ...	11	...	...
Workplaces (other than Out-workers' premises) ... ... ...	14	1	...
Total ... ... ...	35	1	...

## 2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS &amp; WORKPLACES

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness .....	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation .....	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding .....	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances .....	3	3	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation—				
insufficient .....	...	...	...	...
unsuitable or defective.....	1	1	...	...
not separate for sexes .....	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other offences .....	...	...	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921).				
Total .....	4	4	...	...

No returns in OUTWORK Section.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The Parish Councils of Waterloo, Littlemoss, and Bardsley have arrangements with the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation for the use of their Fire Brigade in case of fire, and this has added greatly to the feeling of increased safety in the residents.

An agreement was made with the Oldham Corporation in March, 1935 by the Woodhouses Parish Council for the dealing with fires in that parish.

The Parishes of Alt, Bardsley and Littlemoss have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the Lancashire County Council Libraries Scheme and each parish has a centre under the supervision of an Honorary Librarian.

On April 1st, 1937 by agreement between the Lancashire County Council and Waterloo Parish Council, the Township of Waterloo became part of the County Library area. A temporary centre is functioning until the provision of a sub-branch, plans for which are expected to be approved early in the next year.

The recommendation of the County Medical Officer of Health with regard to the destruction or disinfection of library books from houses where infectious diseases occur is carried out in every case.

The growth of the supply of electric current has continued throughout the District with consequent advantages to residents for both domestic and industrial purposes.

During 1937 Ministry of Transport pattern signs, crossings and a safety island have been provided as follows:—

One "Halt, Major Road Ahead" at Pitses. Two "Cross Roads" signs erected on Oldham Road, approaching Newmarket Road, Waterloo.

New pedestrian crossings and and a safety island provided near War Memorial at Waterloo.

A scheme for new Pithead Baths was approved for Bardsley Colliery.

A dangerous section of roadside wall two feet thick at Rock Mill, Wilshaw Lane, was taken down and rebuilt.

A new shelter for bus passengers was erected at Pelham Street, Bardsley.

The question of making up private streets has been under consideration at various times during the year, with the intention to start on the work during the next financial year.

Near Fennyfield Bridge a Riverside wall has been built to protect the highway at Bettany Brow from subsidence.

Several additional sections of new footpath have been provided, making total new length for the past three years of well over one mile, and it is hoped that expenditure of this nature will make for greater public safety. The fitting last year of 25 electric street lamps alongside the main road in Bardsley with open type refractor bowls is a further improvement tending to reduce liability to accident.

The public lighting of Newmarket Road, Waterloo, has been generally improved, six new street lamps being provided.

The pamphlets issued by the Ministry of Health have been distributed, and the posters have been displayed in every parish in connection with the National Campaign to encourage the wider use of the Health Service.

In October, 1935, the Gas Works Department of the Oldham Corporation which serves a section of the parish of Alt, issued a notice of the decision of the Gas Works Committee to make a charge of 10/- per house for a gas connection, meter and service, with an additional charge of 1/- per foot for service piping over 30 feet.

## 1937 STATISTICS.

Area (acres) at 31/12/37 .....	3688
Estimated Population .....	8006
Birth Rate .....	11.6
Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor	
	1.09)
	13.8
Death Rate (Respiratory Tuberculosis).....	0.24
Infantile Mortality .....	64
Number of Dwelling-houses .....	2490

I wish to thank the Surveyor, Mr. R. Thompson, M.I.N.S.T. M.& C.Y.E., M.R.S.I., for the information given under the headings "Sewers and Sewage Disposal," "House Scavenging," "Town and Country Planning," "Refuse Collection and Disposal," and the data with regard to re-housing proposals.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health  
Sanitary Inspector

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

G. F. BOWMAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., J.P.,

### Medical Officer of Health.









